



District III News

District III Needs Funding for South City Fire Station

Last May District III Advisory Board members watched a fire training video and learned it only takes a matter of minutes for a small house fire to become a raging inferno.

Doug Pickard, President of the International Association of Fire Fighters Local 135 (Wichita Fire Fighters) and Tim Carr, Secretary/Treasurer presented the video along with other information showing the need for a new fire station in South City.

Council Member Jim Skelton is very concerned about emergency services for the South City Area because they are surrounded by natural boundaries. South City Neighborhood Association is bounded by K-15 and

the Burlington Northern & Santa Fe train tracks on the east. Mosley on the west which runs alongside Union Pacific train tracks, the Arkansas River to the south and Pawnee is the boundary to the north.

These boundaries can delay firefighters responding to these areas. A tremendous amount of destruction can occur in the initial minutes of a fire or medical emergency. Anyone stopped by a train at either of these tracks recently knows the trains are very long and a delay could have deadly consequences.

The 2005-2014 Capital Improvement Program has earmarked funding for fire station construction/relocation.

A unified citizen voice

from affected neighborhoods like the South City Neighborhood Association and the K-15 Neighborhood Association would likely be heard by the Wichita City Council. Interested citizens are urged to attend the neighborhood association meetings and voice their support.



A delay reaching a fire in the South City area could have deadly consequences

Stearman Park Dedication

Saturday, August 13th District III Council member Jim Skelton dedicated Clyde Stearman Park. Wichita's newest park, located at Cessna and Roosevelt, is named after a Wichita aviation pioneer. The futuristic looking play

equipment will fuel the imagination of children and allow them to play safely. The park location was selected by the neighborhood residents through the Planeview Neighborhood Association.



Council Member Skelton at the park dedication in August.



Council Member Skelton stands in front of the newest trend in playground equipment — a Space Net.

Special points of interest:

- District III has 839 Acres of parkland
- Garvey Park, the newest park in District III has a canoe launch — dedication is slated for a Spring '06
- Cessna Park is scheduled for playground updates including the futuristic Space Net

District III Constituent Breakfasts

Council Member Skelton's first constituent breakfast was a huge success, with over 50 people attending. Held on August 27th at Potbelly's Restaurant, 1211 E 47th St. S. the standing room only crowd heard Jim underscore the need to prioritize basic city services with special emphasis given to acquiring a fire station for the South City Neighborhood. Mary Kay Vaughn, City of Wichita, Director of Housing and Community Development gave a very interesting presentation about the programs available through her department-



District III Citizens turn out for breakfast with Council Member Skelton in August

Contact WIN

1150 N Broadway, Ste 101
Wichita, KS 67203
316.260.8000

The second constituent breakfast was Saturday, October 22 at Potbelly's. The crowd was enthusiastic and attentive as Wichita Independent Neighborhood (WIN) Association president, David Pendergraft explained the goals

and objectives of WIN and emphasized the benefits of belonging. He encouraged everyone present to work closely with their neighborhood association and WIN. The next Dist III breakfast will be held in January for more information call Vicki Mork, 303-8029.



David Pendergraft addresses the October breakfast for District III

Meeting on South Wichita Haysville Area Plan Draws Crowd

A city county coalition revives interest in the South Wichita/Haysville Area Plan. City Council Members Jim Skelton and Paul Gray joined forces with County Commissioner Tim Norton and affected residents to begin developing strategies for implementation of the area plan.

Introduced in November 2001, the plan was developed in response to the devastating tornadoes that greatly affected this area. Parts of Wichita and Haysville are included in the plan boundaries of MacArthur on the north, Meridian Avenue on

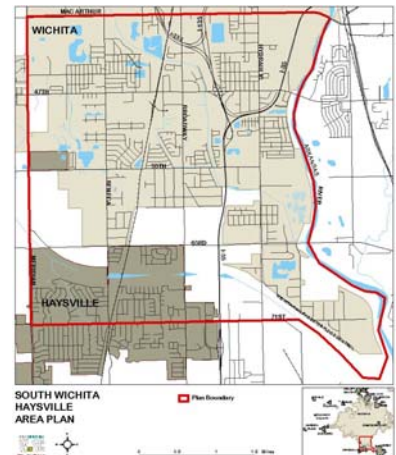
the west, the Arkansas river on the east and 71st Street to the south.

The completed plan addressed eight major issues and concerns related to improvements in area infrastructure, image, housing, services, parks and recreation, educational opportunities and schools, property maintenance, and promoting future area commercial/retail development.

Over 50 residents attended the meeting at The Wichita WATER Center, 101 E Pawnee on October 20 voicing concerns about dirt streets, drainage, and lack of community amenities in the area. The community stakeholders were reminded their involvement is crucial for plan implementation.

The next meeting will begin the strategic organizing and will be held at 7 pm, November 17, 2005 at the Wichita WATER Center at 101 E Pawnee. Everyone is invited and urged to attend.

Active citizen participation can make the Plan's area improvement strategies a reality.



Red outlines the boundaries of the South Wichita/Haysville Area Plan

This is a great opportunity to get involved and shape your community in a positive direction! Please join us at the next meeting to find out how you can do your part in making the South Wichita/Haysville area a better place to live, work, and play.



County Commissioner Tim Norton and Wichita Council Members Jim Skelton and Paul Gray meet with interested citizens

Pawnee Street Slated for Extensive Updates

Pawnee, one of the south side's most heavily traveled streets, is earmarked for extensive improvements. In a few short years, the narrow road with the big hump for the Union Pacific railroad tracks will be just a memory.

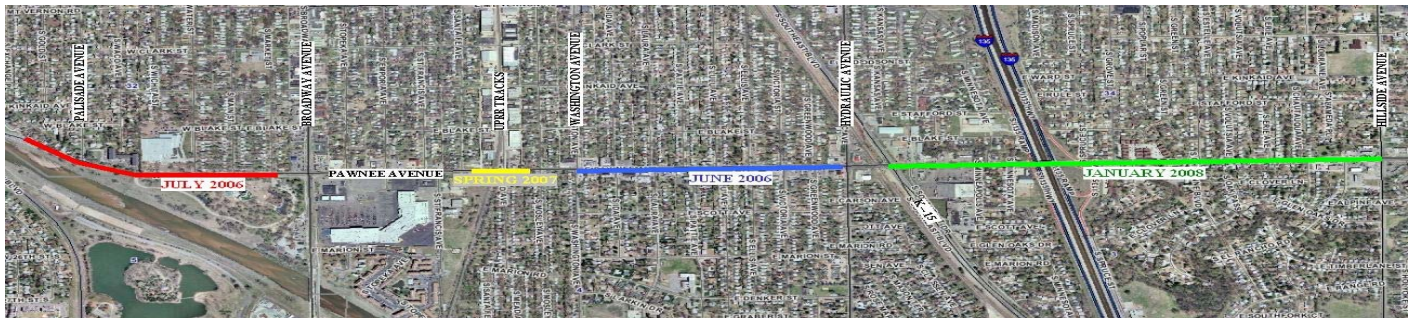
Four major improvements are planned for the street and are color coded in the map below. The blue area highlights Pawnee from Washington to Hydraulic. This area will be updated first. The intersection of Pawnee and Washington

is to be rebuilt and greatly improved. Houses along the north side of Pawnee have been bought and are being moved. The utilities will be moved this winter. The project bid date is set for June 2006 with construction typically beginning about 30 days after the bid is awarded.

The second scheduled Pawnee project is colored red on the map. This section is from 650 feet west of Palisade to Market Street. The bid date for this

segment is July 2006 with construction beginning about 30 days later.

Grade separation for the Union Pacific railroad track as it crosses Pawnee is the third project. It is marked in yellow. This project has been pending for several years and is scheduled for bid in the Spring of 2007 with construction to begin about 30 days after the contract is awarded. Finally the green section of Pawnee from K-15 to Hillside is projected to be bid in January of 2008.



South Central Neighborhood Plan

The South Central Progressive Neighborhood Association and the South Central Improvement Alliance collaborated efforts to initiate and request an update of the 1995 South Central District Revitalization Plan.

The Wichita City Council approved the request for the Wichita-Sedgwick County Metropolitan Area Planning Department to work in partnership with the South Central Neighborhood. The City Manager has appointed a steering committee to guide the plan update. Discussions on background and purpose of the plan along

with a future course for actions are taking place through a series of meetings held at the Bethany United Methodist Church located at 1601 S. Main at 5:30pm on the following dates: November 10, 2005; December 1, 2005; December 15, 2005; January 12, 2006 and January 26, 2005.

A survey has been mailed out to members of this area. The results will be presented at the November 10 meeting. The time line calls for a draft plan to be completed by February 2006 with final approval for May 2006.



The boundaries of So. Central Neighborhood Plan

Council Member Skelton Rides Along with Wichita Police & Fire Department

Protecting the citizens of Wichita must be the top priority for municipal government. As public safety is the largest category of the City's budget, I wanted to better understand the challenges facing Wichita police officers and firefighters. Riding with them was a great education.

I now have a much better understanding of problem issues in our community. These insights help

"Riding along with Police Officers, Firemen, and the Neighborhood Inspectors has given me a better understanding of their jobs"

Jim Skelton.

me work out solutions. Riding along with Community Police Officers increased my awareness of neighborhood code enforcement issues, revealed locations of suspected drug houses and areas of prostitution activity. I also learned what the Wichita Police Department is doing to address these issues.

While responding to calls I witnessed many things. The most exciting time was following a car chase while I was in the Police helicopter. The most depressing experience was responding to a murder suicide while riding with the Wichita Fire Department. I have a much greater appreciation for these brave police officers and firefighters who protect our streets. *Jim Skelton*

Citizens can also ride along with the Wichita Police Department by contacting Patrol East at 688-9300 or Patrol South at 337-9200.



**COLVIN NEIGHBORHOOD CITY HALL
DISTRICT III
COUNCIL MEMBER JIM SKELTON**

2820 S Roosevelt
Wichita, KS 67210
Open 9 am–6 pm
Monday–Friday

Phone: 316-303-8029
Fax: 316-303-8035

Vicki Mork, Neighborhood Assistant
Email: vmork@wichita.gov
Debbie Nguyen, Community Educator
Dtnghuyen@wichita.gov
Merary Trevino, Customer Service Clerk
Mtrevino@wichita.gov

We're on the web!
Wichita.gov



You are invited to the 2nd Annual

**Historic South Wichita Christmas Tour on Saturday, December
17, 2005 5-8 pm**

Tour six historic sites decorated for the holidays -

Immanuel Lutheran Church at 909 S. Market

Schnitzler Mansion 1002 S Broadway

Randall House 943 S Topeka

Firefighters Museum 1300 S Broadway

Monroe-Mahan House 1357 S Broadway

Grace United Methodist Church 944 S Topeka

Begin the tour at any site and walk, drive or ride the trolley

See antique cars, re-enactors in period costumes and Christmas carolers

Free-will donations accepted to be shared by churches and museum.

Website <http://members.cox.net/southwichita/newsletter.html>



Save the date — December 1, 2005 6-8:30 pm for

Traditions Around the World

at Colvin Neighborhood City Hall & Colvin Elementary School 2820 S Roosevelt

- Fun and games for children, crafts, cake walk, door prizes & goody bags for kids
- Entertainment—Mariachi Band, Cambodian Dancers and Asian Dragon Dancers
 - Delicious ethnic food available for purchase -
 - City of Wichita Department Fair

